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SENATORS CARDIN, MIKULSKI ANNOUNCE \$40,000 FOR HOUSING PRESERVATION IN GARRETT CO.

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senators **Benjamin L. Cardin** and **Barbara A. Mikulski** (both D-MD) today announced that the Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc. (GCCAC) has been awarded a \$40,189 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development grant to assist very-low and low-income homeowners. The \$40,189 Housing Preservation Grant will be used to finance low interest or deferred loans to help low-income homeowners in Garrett County repair their homes and remove substandard conditions.

"We need to ensure that all Americans have access to the financing they need to remove dangerous and unsafe conditions and to make the necessary home repairs that will ensure the health and safety of families," said **Senator Cardin**. "These funds will provide those in need with affordable loans to help ensure their homes are structurally safe and sound."

"I am pleased that these families will be able to get the helping hand they need to make repairs to their own homes so they can continue to share in the American dream," **Senator Mikulski** said. "My economic purpose is to give those who are not middle class the chance to get there, and Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc. certainly gives families that opportunity."

The Housing Preservation Grant Program provides grants for repair or rehabilitation of low and very low-income housing. Very low income is defined as below 50% of area median income (AMI) and low income is defined as between 50% and 80% of AMI. The Garrett County Community Action Committee assists the residents of Garrett County in establishing and/or maintaining a safe, healthy and affordable home. In 2009 and 2008, GCCAC received USDA Rural Development grants of \$37,000 to assist with housing improvements.

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